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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6720

BILL NUMBER: HB 1749

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 21, 2003

BILL AMENDED: Feb 20, 2003

SUBJECT: Guaranteed Individual Health Coverage.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Fry

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill amends the Indiana Comprehensive Health Insurance Association (ICHIA) law concerning eligibility, reimbursement, prescription drug coverage, chronic disease management, and termination of coverage. It also makes conforming and technical amendments.

Effective Date: (Amended) July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) This bill makes several changes to the Indiana Comprehensive Health Insurance Association law. These changes are expected to generate more revenue for ICHIA and reduce total expenditures. The net losses of ICHIA (the excess of expenses over premium and other revenue) are made up by assessments on member insurance carriers. Members may, in turn, (1) take a credit against Premium Taxes, Adjusted Gross Income Taxes, or any combination of these or similar taxes; or (2) include in the rates for premiums charged for their insurance policies amounts sufficient to recoup the assessments. To the extent that this bill increases premiums and reduces expenditures, it may increase revenue to the state. If insurers are assessed an amount less than their tax liability, the state may receive increased Premium Taxes and/or Adjusted Gross Income Taxes, or any combination of these or similar taxes.

The changes to the ICHIA program include: (1) sets definition of resident and requires an insured to be a resident; (2) eliminates list of health conditions that automatically qualify an individual; (3) provides that the amount of reimbursement for services covered under an ICHIA policy may not exceed the amount of reimbursement for the same service under Medicare; (4) elimination of \$25 referral fees for insurance agents; (5) use of the Medicaid preferred drug list; (6) implementation of drug copayments; (7) establish list of chronic diseases, implement disease management programs, and allow use of internet/mail order pharmacy; (8) prohibits eligibility for ICHIA if the person is eligible for Medicaid; (9) eliminates provision that an

individual can obtain an ICHIA policy if current group insurance coverage may be canceled, and (10) eliminates provision that an individual can obtain an ICHIA policy without any limitations on pre-existing conditions if current group insurance coverage is scheduled to be canceled.

(1) *Sets Definition of Resident:* This provision may reduce the number of individuals that are enrolled in the ICHIA plan. Total impact on plan expenditures is unknown. There are approximately 9,800 individuals with ICHIA plans currently. Under current practice in order for an individual to establish residency, they must reside in the state for at least three months. There is no language in statute currently that automatically discontinues an individual's coverage if they change residency to another state. The contractor for ICHIA conducts investigations of individuals suspected to have changed residency and notifies them that their coverage will expire the following month if they have indeed relocated out of state. This provision may reduce the lag time between when an individual moves out of state and when the policy is canceled. Cost savings associated with this provision are not known at this time.

(2) *Elimination of Qualifying Medical Conditions:* Under the current statute an individual does not have to demonstrate an inability to obtain coverage if the individual has one of several listed conditions. The provision in the bill which requires an individual to demonstrate their inability to obtain outside coverage may deter some individuals from obtaining an ICHIA policy. The extent of savings is dependent upon the number of individuals affected. However, given the fact that insurers cannot write waivers of coverage into health insurance policies, it is likely that an individual with one of the current qualifying conditions cannot obtain coverage through a source other than ICHIA, and thus be eligible after a denial of coverage. Thus, the net reduction in policies issued by ICHIA and the associated cost reductions are negligible.

(3) *ICHIA Reimbursement Rates:* The bill requires that reimbursement for health care services covered under an ICHIA policy may not exceed the reimbursement rate provided for the same service under the Medicare program. This would likely result in reduced claims expenditures for the ICHIA program. However, the amount of expenditure reduction is not known at this time.

(4) *Elimination of Referral Fees:* This bill eliminates the provision that an insurance agent that refers an individual to ICHIA for coverage is to receive a \$25 referral fee. Referral fees paid for 2001 totaled \$28,090, and referral fees for 2002 totaled \$34,675 (through October 31, 2002). Elimination of this requirement will result in cost savings of an estimated average \$30,000 annually.

(5) & (6) *Use of Medicaid Preferred Drug List and Increased Drug Copayment:* This provision has three exceptions. Prescriptions for the treatment of HIV, AIDS, or hemophilia may not be placed on prior authorization. It is estimated that the preferred drug list and increased drug copayment provisions will result in a 17%-18% savings on prescription expenditures. Total prescription expenditures for the period April 2001 to March 2002 were \$9.6 M. Based on this data, the estimated savings would be between \$1.6 M and \$1.7 M annually.

(7) *Disease Management:* This provision requires that ICHIA establish a list of chronic diseases and implement mandatory disease management programs. ICHIA recently signed a contract with an outside company to establish a voluntary disease management program. The voluntary program is estimated to be operational by March 1 and to result in a 5% cost savings. ICHIA staff estimate that if the disease management program were made mandatory it could result in a 10% cost savings for the program.

The bill also requires individuals to obtain prescription drugs from an Internet or mail order pharmacy or a pharmacy that agrees to sell a prescription at the same price as the Internet or mail order pharmacy. Cost

savings associated with this provision are not known at the present time.

(8) ICHIA/Medicaid Eligibility: The bill prohibits individuals who are eligible for Medicaid from being eligible for an ICHIA policy. This is the current practice of ICHIA.

(9) & (10) Eligibility Requirement Changes: This bill eliminates the provision that an individual can obtain an ICHIA policy if current group insurance coverage may be canceled. In addition, it eliminates the provision that an individual can obtain an ICHIA policy without any limitations on pre-existing conditions if current group insurance coverage may be canceled. These provisions may reduce the number of individuals that obtain an ICHIA policy. The total reduction in expenditures associated with these provisions is not known at this time and is contingent upon the reduction of potential enrollees.

Background: All carriers, health maintenance organizations, limited service health maintenance organizations, and self-insurers providing health insurance or health care services in Indiana are members of the Indiana Comprehensive Health Insurance Association. ICHIA is funded through premiums paid by individuals obtaining insurance through ICHIA, by assessments to member companies (excluding self-insurers preempted by ERISA), and the state General Fund. To be eligible, Indiana residents must show evidence of: (1) denied insurance coverage or an exclusionary rider; (2) one or more of the "presumptive" conditions such as AIDS, cystic fibrosis, or diabetes; (3) insurance coverage under a group, government, or church plan making the applicant eligible under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA); or (4) exhausted continuation coverage (e.g., COBRA). Premium rates must be less than or equal to 150% of the average premium charged by the five largest individual market carriers.

The net losses of ICHIA (the excess of expenses over premium and other revenue) are made up by assessments on member insurance carriers. Members may, in turn, (1) take a credit against Premium Taxes, Adjusted Gross Income Taxes, or any combination of these or similar taxes; or (2) include in the rates for premiums charged for their insurance policies amounts sufficient to recoup the assessments. Total expenses for the ICHIA program for CY 2001 were \$93.1 M with premium contributions of \$31.7 M and assessment receipts of \$61.4M. Enrollment in the ICHIA program as of August 2002 was 9,779. Based upon data presented to the State Budget Committee, the assessments for 2003 are projected to exceed the \$100 M threshold by approximately \$5.6 M. The Executive Director of ICHIA stated that new cost control mechanisms put in place in recent months may control total program costs.

Beginning October 31, 2002, insurers are required to report the amount of assessments paid and tax credits taken each year. Data from CY 2001 is currently incomplete. However, preliminary data indicate that ICHIA assessments in 2001 exceeded tax credits taken by approximately \$10.3 M.

ICHIA Assessments

Year	Assessment	Percent Change
1997	\$18,791,177	10.48%
1998	\$25,907,143	37.87%
1999	\$24,130,087	-6.86%
2000	\$34,816,164	44.29%
2001	\$61,406,500	76.37%
2002*	\$79,127,224	28.86%
2003*	\$105,574,277	33.42%

* Estimates based upon data presented to State Budget Committee by Connie Brown, MPlan, 11/12/02.

Explanation of State Revenues: See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Comprehensive Health Insurance Association.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Doug Stratton, Executive Director, ICHIA, 317-877-5376; Testimony of Connie Brown of MPlan to the Budget Committee on November 12, 2002.

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